

Application No.: 10/595926
Filing Date: July 12, 2006

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Invention I, Claims 1-13 and 35-39, without traverse. Claims 14-34 and 40-41 are hereby withdrawn as unelected.

In response to the Election of Species requirement, Applicant hereby elects Species 1, Figure 1, without traverse. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13, and 35-38 read upon the elected species.

With regard to the sub-species, Applicant elects Sub-species 1, Figure 10, with traverse. As noted in paragraph [0085] of the published application, Figure 10 illustrates the ring following the opening of the closed bends 124 illustrated in Figures 9A, 9B and 9C such that the schematic illustration of Figure 10 does not actually illustrate a different embodiment or species from those in Figures 9A, 9B, and 9C.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 1, 2011

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